



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at [bfindley@sppg.com](mailto:bfindley@sppg.com) or 515.243.2000.

## January Newsletter

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## Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming IAA Events

All legislative events listed below will take place at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines.

**March 11** – YMCA Legislative Breakfast, 7:30 – 9 am

**March 17** – Boys and Girls Club PB & J Lunch, 11:30 am – 1 pm

## Legislative Update and Bills of Interest, February 6, 2009

### Disaster Recovery

This week the Legislature approved a \$56 million disaster recovery package which will come from the state's Economic Emergency Fund. The recovery package includes \$24 million for the JumpStart Housing Program, with an additional \$22 million going to cities and counties. Individuals and families will benefit from \$10 million that will go to the Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program. Governor Culver signed the bill on February 2 at the Capitol. Though no funds from the bill are directly appropriated to afterschool programs, Linn County Supervisor Linda Langston indicated that some of the funds may be used to help non profits that experienced gaps in assistance including before and after school programs.

## Governor's Budget

Governor Culver released his budget recommendations for fiscal year 2010 on January 28. The Governor proposed a scaled back budget of \$6.2 billion that included 6.5 percent cuts in most areas. The Governor's proposed budget continues reductions made in fiscal year 2009, implementing 6.5 percent reductions to most of the budget for fiscal year 2010, and using \$200 million from the state's cash reserve fund. Afterschool funding was included in the Governor's budget – an important step in maintaining the Before and After School grant program into next year.



The IAA has attended the [Education Appropriations Subcommittee](#) and visited with members about the importance and reliance on afterschool programs statewide. The Legislature's Budget Subcommittees will continue meeting over the next couple of months to review the Governor's budget and craft their own recommendations for fiscal year 2010. As the budget is debated and funds are continually reduced, it will be imperative for IAA members to visit with their local elected officials and members of key committees about the importance of afterschool programming in their community.

## FY 09 Funds Released

The Department of Education has released the Before and After School Grants funds appropriated for FY09 to the grant awardees. Congratulations to this year's grantees!

## To Learn More about the Iowa General Assembly and Your Legislators

Please visit the [Iowa General Assembly website](#). Click on "legislators" to find your legislator or learn more about the committees on which they serve. The website also has many great resources, including information on how a bill becomes a law and bill search tools. The following is a list of bills IAA members may be interested in learning more about. Please follow the hyperlink provided for full text of the bill.

- » Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning Products in Schools [HF 199](#)
- » Return of State Funding for Each Student Who Drops Out of School [HF 194](#)
- » Teaching Chemical and Biological Evolution [HF 183](#)
- » Administration of Epinephrine in Schools [HF 38](#)
- » Facility Schools Division Establishment [HSB 127](#)
- » Election for the Approval of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy [HSB 126](#)
- » Permanent Substitute Teacher License [HF 158](#)
- » Child Care Pilot Project [HF 156](#)
- » Providing Transportation to Open Enrolled Students [HF 138](#)
- » Providing Transportation to Open Enrolled Pupils [HF 163](#)
- » Requirements for Promotion of Students [HF 129](#)
- » Early School Starts [SF 76](#)
- » History Requirements for Secondary Students [SF 72](#)
- » Limiting the School Aid Formula to Four Years of High School per Student [HF 119](#)
- » Age of Admission for Kindergarten [HF 100](#)
- » Reading and Math Proficiency [HF 94](#)

- » School District Reorganization [SSB 1101](#)
- » Teacher Salary Supplements [SF 37](#)
- » Assessment System of Academic Growth [SF 36](#)
- » Transportation Assistance [HF 71](#)
- » Textbooks and Computer Hardware for Nonpublic School Pupils [HF 31](#)
- » Hours of Instructional School Time [HF 26](#)
- » School District Dropout Funding [HSB 3](#)
- » Youth Development Collaboration [SSB 1004](#)
- » Student Enrollment, Students with Visas [SSB 1010](#)
- » School Transportation and Energy Relief [SSB 1009](#)
- » Statewide Writing Assessment [SSB 1016](#)
- » Parental Involvement Grant Program [HF 7](#)
- » Compulsory School Attendance (Ending) Age [HF 40](#) (formerly [HSB 38](#))
- » Compulsory School Attendance (Starting) Age [SF 6](#)
- » School District Disaster Relief Adjustments [SF 81](#) (formerly [SSB 1013](#))
- » School District Innovation Grant Program, Core Curriculum and Skills [SSB 1014](#)
- » Transportation of Children Attending Preschool Programs [SF 8](#)
- » Duties and Operations of DE and Local School Boards [SSB 1011](#)

## Iowa Afterschool Alliance Releases its Findings from the Statewide Voter Survey

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance released its statewide survey findings at its legislative breakfast on February 12, 2009. The IAA's Data Workgroup collaborated to construct the questionnaire sent to Iowans across the state. The survey questionnaire was mailed to a random selection of 4,000 registered voters in Iowa, along with a self-addressed postage-paid envelope. In total, the IAA collected responses from 326 households representing 157 communities across Iowa.

Below are preliminary findings from the survey.

- ***Iowans identify the need for afterschool programs in their communities***

Survey results show that an overwhelming 88 percent of respondents strongly agree that elementary age children should have access to afterschool programs; 77 percent strongly agree that middle school age children should have the same access. These attitudes are only slightly below the national average.

- ***Iowans recognize the immediate benefits of afterschool programs***

Seventy-eight percent of respondents agree that afterschool programs serve a very important function for today's youth – providing a safe place for them to be after school lets out. Other benefits of high-quality afterschool programs indicated by the survey include professionally trained staff, parent communication and involvement, and academic support.

- ***Iowans are aware of the barriers parents face in accessing afterschool programs***

Cost, lack of transportation, and lack of a local afterschool program are the most cited barriers preventing enrollment and access to afterschool programs. The IAA survey shows that cost is an especially significant issue for households with a combined household income of less than \$60,000. Regardless of income, transportation is a known issue for Iowa parents accessing afterschool programs in their community.



- ***Developing and offering afterschool programs is a shared responsibility***

While the public school district was most often identified as the entity responsible for developing and offering afterschool programs, results also show that Iowans believe that the non-profit sector, local government, faith-based organizations and private organizations should also be responsible for developing and offering afterschool programs.

## Technical Assistance: How to Talk about Afterschool

As you prepare for legislative advocacy, it will be important to convey the importance and benefits of afterschool to your community. This month, we focus on ideas for discussion points as you advocate:

- » Introduce yourself and your program. Share positive outcomes that youth in your program have experienced (i.e. increased attendance, achievement in school, graduation rates).
- » Share what is unique about your program and how it serves your community.
- » Emphasize the ways that quality afterschool programs engage children and young adults and expose them to experiences they would not otherwise have. Afterschool programs are shown to:
  - Help students to increase their academic, workplace, and problem solving skills and decrease behavior problems.
  - Benefit students excelling in the traditional classroom as well as students falling behind.
  - Be beneficial to all ages. Young children need a safe, enriching place to be after the school day ends while their parents work. Teenagers need a safe, positive place to “hang out” after school where drugs and risky behavior are not an option.
- » Explain why state funding for afterschool is essential, especially in the midst of the economic downturn, including how your program has benefitted or could benefit from state funding.
- » Iowa is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation with both or the only parent working. This means that youth in Iowa are more likely to be alone after school and susceptible to participating in risky behaviors.
- » Due to the current economic situation around the country, the state of Iowa needs to focus on creating and maintaining good paying jobs for Iowa’s workers. This will require an educated and skilled workforce.
- » To continually strive for access to high quality afterschool programming for all Iowa children and youth, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance recognizes the following long-term priorities for afterschool in Iowa:
  - The creation of a single, sustainable source of funding for afterschool programs in Iowa to meet known demand for funding to provide programming to children and youth around the state.

- The creation of a formal state-level Council to study afterschool demand and possible solutions.
- Consider the importance of afterschool programming in the overall educational success of Iowa's students, especially in those communities facing challenges through poverty, high crime rates, and those recovering from disasters.



## Check Out the Resources on Afterschool Website

*Resources on Afterschool* is an online tool featuring selected resources related to afterschool. The website includes resources by areas which include:

- » Research and Evaluation
  - » Formal research and evaluation tools, planning instruments and quality assessments tools
- » Promising Practices
  - » Techniques and ideas for improving systems and programs Professional Development
- » Information on continued learning and staff development
- » Public Awareness and Communication
  - » Information related to advocacy, outreach strategies, data and media Policy
- » Governance, partnerships and policy development Financing in Afterschool
  - » General financing information, cost-benefit analysis, financing strategies, special funding sources and sustainability

These resources have been compiled for statewide afterschool networks and the field working to build systems that support quality, sustainable afterschool programs. There are two parts: a public database for afterschool practitioners and a private database designed to meet the needs of the [Statewide Afterschool Networks](#). Network members should contact their network lead Brooke Findley at [bfindley@sppg.com](mailto:bfindley@sppg.com) for login details. To access the website, [click here](#). If you would like to contribute to the database, please contact Jennifer Cotter at [cotter@collaborativecommunications.com](mailto:cotter@collaborativecommunications.com).

Also, do not forget to visit the Iowa Afterschool Alliance website as it features a wide variety of information on quality resources. To visit, [click here](#).

## Afterschool Alliance talks with Obama team about future of after-school programs (Excerpt from New Day for Learning\* National Media Coverage)

The Afterschool Alliance has long advocated for the necessity and importance of afterschool programs for those children who need a supervised structured program where the difference between being in an afterschool program or not means being influenced by gangs or other at-risk behavior. Knowing that it is the intent of the Obama Administration to take a scalpel to dissect programs from the federal budget, officials with Afterschool Alliance have been meeting with the Obama team and discussing how afterschool programs relate to the economic recovery package. It only makes sense that a healthy future for this nation's economy involves an educated population. The future for afterschool programs looks bright within the Obama administration. Yet, because events change swiftly every day, nothing is guaranteed.

To keep the issue of the importance of afterschool programs on the radar of Obama officials, the Afterschool Alliance has created a special card for Obama and his team. The Afterschool Alliance is inviting the public to sign the card and tell the new president and his team why they support afterschool programs. The card will be delivered to the Obama team on February 1, 2009. So far, over 500 people have signed the card. There are many reasons being cited by the card's signers as to why afterschool programs should be expanded: they keep kids safe, provide an ongoing learning environment, gives kids guidance but one of the most repeated reasons is afterschool programs change lives for the better. And if they change lives, then afterschool programs are also changing the future of the country for the better as well.



*\* New Day for Learning, funded by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, is a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for learning that builds a foundation of core academics, by leveraging community resources to incorporate strategies such as hands-on learning, working in teams and problem solving. Before and after school programs are already using innovative learning approaches to engage students and increase their chances for success. To visit their website, [click here](#).*

## Access Health Education Materials through the Children's Health Fund

The Children's Health Fund (CHF) creates low-literacy health education materials to assist children and their families in learning about a variety of health related topics. Available in English and Spanish, these culturally relevant booklets and brochures are a resource appropriate for one-on-one teaching as well as instruction in a group or classroom setting. The materials make vital health information accessible to children, teenagers, parents and other care givers. They are created by clinicians within CHF's national network and undergo an extensive review process, which includes external topic experts and cultural anthropologists. English and Spanish materials adhere to low-literacy writing and design conventions and are tested for appropriate reading levels. Topics include promoting healthy behaviors, growth and development, preventing disease, and managing chronic illness. To read about these materials, [click here](#).

## The Wallace Foundation Releases its Latest Report, "The Cost of Quality Out-of-School-Time Programs"

The groundbreaking report by The Wallace Foundation provides a data-filled examination of the costs of 111 diverse, quality OST programs in six cities. The report finds that costs vary widely depending on a range of factors from program goals to times of operations and the ages of the children served. The report also looks at the full costs of programming, including non-cash contributions. To read the full report, [click here](#).

To make the findings of the report even more useful, Wallace and the report's research team has also created an online "OST cost calculator" on Wallace's website to help users calculate the costs of various options of high-quality OST programs. To access the OST cost calculator, [click here](#).

## Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership Funds New Afterschool Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Enrichment Programs



The New Afterschool STEM Enrichment Programs are just one of the few programs recently funded by IMSEP. Each project is screened by a review panel of scholars for alignment to IMSEP goals and objectives. Project leaders will report their progress and accomplishments to the executive board in April. The IMSEP executive board will be making decisions regarding reviewer recommendations for FY 2010 grant awards. To learn more about IMSEP and its funding programs, visit their website by [clicking here](#).

## VSA Arts of Iowa Provides Opportunities for Afterschool Programs

VSA Arts is an international organization founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith as an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The affiliate network includes 39 states and the District of Columbia, as well as 70 international affiliates in 67 countries. Affiliate programs serve 4.3 million Americans and 1.3 million people in other parts of the world. VSA arts of Iowa has four program areas which are the following: Education Programs, Professional Development, Cultural Access, and Public Awareness and Outreach.

Two of their programs can possibly be used to provide recreational and learning activities for children in afterschool programs, especially those targeting disabled students. For over 20 years, VSAI has impacted the lives of over 200,000 children through the Arts for Children Program. Traditionally, this program consists of 20 professional artists with disabilities that provided in-school residences across Iowa. Students are enriched through hands-on experiences with music, painting, illustrating, stained glass, and various other art forms. Another program that is offered through VSA Arts of Iowa is the New Visions Dance Class. New Visions Dance is for children and youth ages 6 and up with disabilities who want to explore the art and joy of creative movement. Dancers learn about the world of dance through a variety of music and dance movements. This program provides opportunity for individuals to express themselves in an exciting format, exercise, and bond with a positive peer group. Each session consists of classes along with various performances. For more information on VSA arts of Iowa, please visit their website by clicking here.



## Upcoming Professional Development, Events and Funding Opportunities

The Iowa Department of Public Health has a number of grant opportunities available. Given below are the titles and application deadlines for each grant opportunity. For more information, visit [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/notice\\_of\\_funds.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/notice_of_funds.asp)



» **Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control JEL Chapter Grants - Fiscal Year 2010 RFA**

Application Due Date: March 26, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2010

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Community Partnerships - Fiscal Year 2010 RFA**

Application Due Date: April 1, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2010

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Division of Behavioral Health Youth Mentoring - Fiscal Year 2010 RFA**

Application Due Date: March 25, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2011

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Youth Development to Reduce Substance Abuse - Fiscal Year 2010 RFA**

Application Due Date: March 19, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2011

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Prevention Through Mentoring - Fiscal Year 2010 RFA**

Application Due Date: March 17, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2011

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Safe and Drug Free Schools Through Supportive Community Partnerships RFA**

Application Due Date: March 12, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2010

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)



» **Community Coalition Grant for Fiscal Year 2010**

Application Due Date: March 10, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2010

[Click here to view the RFB](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

» **Comprehensive Substance Abuse Prevention RFA**

Application Due Date: February 25, 2009

Project Period Ending: June 30, 2010

[Click here to view the RFA](#)

[Click here to download attachments](#)

